

\$75,000 to help meet increased shelter needs

June 30, 2010

MEDIA, PA — Congressman Sestak (PA-07) announces the House Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee's inclusion of \$75,000 funding requested by Congressman Sestak to support the operation of Emergency Shelter run by the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County (DAP), the only emergency shelter in Delaware County for victims of domestic violence and their minor children.

"I admire the work on the dedicated staff of the Domestic Abuse Project and the hard, but regrettably necessary task of dealing with the tragic consequences of domestic violence," said Congressman Sestak. "It is unfortunate that this funding or anything like it is needed at all, but while the realities of domestic violence exist, we must be thankful for the work of the DAP and other similar organizations and ensure that they get the support they need to provide their incredible services."

The Shelter operates 365 days a year on a 24/7 basis for families rendered homeless as a result of domestic violence. Preliminary findings from the 2008 Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Violence (PCADV) fatalities report show that Delaware County ranked second in the

Commonwealth in the number of domestic violence fatalities. The funding was requested in light of the devastating decline in the economy, which has exacerbated demand for its services, heightened client needs, reduced its available resources, negatively impacted its private fund-raising capacity, and brought the Agency significant unbudgeted costs. The Agency has experienced reimbursement delays, the need to access costly lines of credit, and a decline in its in-kind donations.

DAP is a private, non-profit, human service organization which has had an exclusive mission for more than 33 years has been domestic violence intervention and prevention services on behalf of the 550,000 residents of Delaware County - and their minor children. DAP serves on average 4,000 victims annually – all of whom reside in the Pennsylvania Seventh Congressional District. Core programs include: Emergency Shelter, 24/7 Emergency Hotline, Counseling, Legal Services, and Transitional Housing.

The Agency provides the following array of programs and services to victims on a 365 day a year basis: 24-hour Hotline and support groups; information and referrals; counseling; assistance in petitioning for emergency, temporary and final Protection from Abuse Orders as well as legal representation in final PFA hearings; emergency shelter and transitional housing; criminal court advocacy and accompaniment; case management and supportive services; children's services; medical advocacy; and a 911 cell phone program.

They have also operated Nana's Attic Thrift Store, located in the Lawrence Park Shopping Center, since 2002. All proceeds from the store support their programs.

The project now needs approval by the full Appropriations Committee, the full House of Representatives, and the conference process with the Senate before it goes to the President to be signed into law.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.